



Department of Economic and  
Community Development

**Connecticut**  
*still revolutionary*

**Catherine H. Smith**  
Commissioner

**TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE**

**3/6/14**

**Re: SB 77: AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE HADDAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**SB 132: AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR THE CONSORTIUM OF  
CONNECTICUT ART MUSEUMS**

**SB 305: AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR THE "DREAM IT. DO IT."  
MANUFACTURING PIPELINE PROGRAM**

**HB 5271: AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR THE ADVANCED MANUFACTURING  
OF COMPOSITE MATERIALS IN CONNECTICUT**

**HB 5403: AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR THE CONNECTICUT INVENTION  
CONVENTION**

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Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone, Senator Frantz, Representative Lavielle and members of the Commerce Committee. Thanks for the opportunity to offer testimony on a few bills before you here today: SB 77, SB 132, SB 305, HB 5271 and HB 5403.

Each of these bills would appropriate funding to DECD for the purpose of providing a grant-in-aid to the entity referenced in the legislation. Without regard to whether these projects warrant funding, we at DECD offer a general concern. These directed allocations limit our ability to review each project thoroughly to understand what is being proposed and what benefits will be provided; determine whether it should receive public resources; add any objectives and/or metrics which enable better determination of the efficacy of the program; and prioritize between various competing proposals. Instead of new line items being added to its budget, DECD would prefer the flexibility to evaluate projects on their merits before any funding is awarded to them.

Thanks for allowing me to share some thoughts on these pieces of legislation. I appreciate, in advance, your due consideration.